

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED SECRETARY OF  
STATE BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to candidates for federal office, including  
2 affidavits of candidacy and objections to nominations.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 43.18, subsection 9, Code 2024, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
4 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
5 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
6 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
7 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
8 the president of the United States.

9 Sec. 2. Section 43.24, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
10 by adding the following new paragraph:

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* Objections to the eligibility of a  
12 candidate for a federal office shall not be sustained unless  
13 the objection is limited to the legal sufficiency of the  
14 nomination petition or certificate of nomination, or to the  
15 residency, age, or citizenship requirements as described in the  
16 Constitution of the United States.

17 Sec. 3. Section 44.3, subsection 2, paragraph i, Code 2024,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 *i.* A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
20 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
21 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
22 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
23 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
24 the president of the United States.

25 Sec. 4. Section 44.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 **44.6 Hearing before state commissioner.**

28 Objections filed with the state commissioner shall be  
29 considered by the secretary of state and auditor of state and  
30 attorney general, and a majority decision shall be final.  
31 However, if the objection is to the certificate of nomination  
32 of one or more of the above named officers, the officer or  
33 officers objected to shall not pass upon the objection, but  
34 their places shall be filled, respectively, by the treasurer  
35 of state, the governor, and the secretary of agriculture.

1 Objections relating to incorrect or incomplete information  
2 for information that is required under section 44.3 shall be  
3 sustained. Objections to the eligibility of a candidate for  
4 a federal office shall not be sustained unless the objection  
5 is limited to the legal sufficiency of the nomination petition  
6 or certificate of nomination, or to the residency, age, or  
7 citizenship requirements as described in the Constitution of  
8 the United States.

9 Sec. 5. Section 45.3, subsection 9, Code 2024, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
12 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
13 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
14 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
15 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
16 the president of the United States.

17 Sec. 6. Section 54.5, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. An objection to a nomination made under  
20 this section on any grounds other than the legal sufficiency  
21 of the certificate of nomination shall not be sustained. The  
22 certificate of nomination shall be presumed valid.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill relates to the nomination of candidates for  
27 federal office. The bill exempts candidates for federal office  
28 from the requirement that a candidate sign a statement that  
29 the candidate is aware that the candidate is disqualified  
30 from holding office if the candidate has been convicted of a  
31 felony or other infamous crime and the candidate's rights have  
32 not been restored by the governor or by the president of the  
33 United States. The bill limits objections to the eligibility  
34 of a candidate for a federal office that may be filed with the  
35 state commissioner of elections to objections to the legal

1 sufficiency of the nomination petition or certificate of  
2 election, or to the residency, age, or citizenship requirements  
3 as described in the United States Constitution. With  
4 respect to nominations for president or vice president of the  
5 United States, the bill allows objections only to the legal  
6 sufficiency of the certificate of nomination. The certificate  
7 of nomination shall be presumed valid.